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## General

Libya is located in Northern Africa, bordering the Mediterranean Sea, between Egypt and Tunisia.

The climate is Mediterranean along the coast and extremely dry in the desert interior.

The terrain is mostly barren, flat to undulating plains, plateaus, and depressions.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect.

See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the Libyan dinar, consisting of 1,000 millemes.

## Firing Areas

Firing exercises take place in two areas off the Libyan coast from Ras Ajdir to Tarabulus. These areas are described below, as follows:

1. **Area 1.**—Delimited by lines drawn joining the following positions:
  - a. 33°20'N, 12°36'E.
  - b. 33°20'N, 13°00'E.
  - c. 33°04'N, 13°00'E.
  - d. 33°08'N, 12°42'E.
2. **Area 2.**—Delimited by the parallel 33°00'N, the meridians 12°25'E and 13°10'E, and the coast.

The following areas are prohibited to navigation:

1. **Khalij Surt** (Gulf of Sidra).—An area bound by lines joining the following positions:
  - a. 31°09'N, 19°42'E.
  - b. 31°09'N, 19°19'E.
  - c. 31°56'N, 19°19'E.
  - d. 31°56'N, 19°42'E.
2. An area bound by lines joining the following positions:
  - a. 32°52'N, 12°44'E.
  - b. 32°58'N, 12°48'E.
  - c. 32°58'N, 13°06'E.
  - d. 32°53'N, 13°06'E.

## Fishing Areas

### Tunny Net Areas

During certain seasons of the year, expansive tunny nets are laid out in places off the Libyan coast. The nets are sometimes upward of 5 miles offshore and should be avoided.

The prescribed marking for all tunny fisheries is, as follows:

1. By day.—Two balls displayed vertically, the upper one red, the lower white, and not less than 2m apart. They are shown at a height of not less than 5m above the sea from

boats or floats moored seaward of the central outer portion of the main nets or the return, whichever extends farthest.

2. By night.—Two lights, the upper one red, the lower white, visible not less than 2 miles, are shown in place of the above balls.

Tunny nets which do not extend more than 0.15 mile from the coast, and are not laid out in areas frequented by shipping, are exempt from showing the above night signals.

Practical difficulties may temporarily prevent the proper marking of tunny fisheries areas and may affect their dimensions and positions. Generally, such fisheries are allotted a water area of about 3 miles along their front, 5.5 miles on their W side, and 0.5 mile along their E side.

Where nets have been laid out, vessels should keep not less than 6 miles from the coast to avoid the possibility of fouling them. Great caution should be observed when entering or leaving a port.

Tunny nets are usually laid as far as:

- a. 5 miles offshore of Zuwarah
- b. 2.5 miles NNW of Marsa Zuwaghah
- c. 5 miles N of Marsa Dilah
- d. 5 miles offshore of Zanzur
- e. 2.5 miles NNW of Ras el-Ahmar
- f. 3 miles W of Ras al Hallab, the end of which may project as far as 5 miles from shore, in proximity of normal shipping routes
- g. 4.5 miles offshore of Ras al Misann
- h. The sea area fronting Sidi Muftah
- i. 1.5 miles NNW of Zlitan
- j. 2.5 and 5 miles NW of Sidi Bu Fatimah and Marsa Zurayq.
- k. 2.2 miles offshore of Minqares Sighir (4 miles NE of Banghazi)

Drilling platforms and ships servicing them may be found in an area extending up to 20 miles NW of Az Zuwaytinah.

## Government

Libya has established a form of direct democracy, the Jamahiriya (state of the masses), governed by the populace through local councils. The official name of the country is the Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The country functions, however, as a military dictatorship.

The capital is Tripoli.

## Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

March 2, Proclamation of People's Authority; March 8, Syrian Revolution Day; March 28, Evacuation of the British Forces; May 25, Sudanese Revolution Day; June 11, Evacuation of the American Forces; July 23, Egyptian Revolution Day; Sept. 1, Libyan Revolution Day; and Oct. 7, Evacuation of Italians.

The following Islamic holidays, the dates of which vary from year to year and are subject to the appearance of the moon, are observed: El Mouled; El Nabawi; Eid el Fitr; Eid el Adha; and Higri New Year.

## Industries

Oil and natural gas production are the principal industries. Textiles, handicrafts, and cement contribute to the economy.

Oases along the coast produce dates, olives, peanuts, and citrus fruit.

## Languages

The official language is Arabic, however, Italian, and English are also in general use in the major cities.

## Mined Areas

Mines have been reported in areas bound by lines joining the following positions:

1. **Area 1**
  - a. 32°52.8'N, 13°24.5'E.
  - b. 32°57.7'N, 13°24.5'E.
  - c. 32°57.6'N, 13°18.0'E.
  - d. 32°53.8'N, 13°22.3'E.
2. **Area 2**
  - a. 32°53.7'N, 13°20.6'E.
  - b. 32°55.9'N, 13°18.0'E.
  - c. 32°55.9'N, 13°15.0'E.
  - d. 32°54.5'N, 13°15.0'E.

## Regulations

The normal international courtesies, such as flying the Libyan flag at the foremast, should be carefully adhered to while in the territorial waters and ports of Libya.

The Libyan flag and the ship's national flag must be shown by day and night. Failure to fly the Libyan flag may result in a heavy fine. U.S. Navy ships will comply with U.S. Navy Regulations and/or appropriate instructions.

Libya claims a 300 nautical mile line closing the Gulf of Sidra, with all waters inside considered as internal waters. Libya also claims a 12 nautical mile territorial sea in the Mediterranean Sea. Current information on territorial sea claims may be found in Notice to Mariners Number 1. The regulations and limits cited are published solely in the interest of navigational safety, and do not, in any way, constitute acceptance, or acknowledgment of the validity of such regulations by the United States government.

Before arrival at the outer limits of a Libyan port, vessels are requested to display the following signals: flags of vessel's call sign, quarantine flag, ship's national flag, the Libyan flag at the foremast, a red flag during daylight, and red light at night, if carrying explosives or any inflammable cargo, and a pilot flag.

Libyan law does not permit ships transiting Libyan waters to retain on board the following: Israeli flags, stores, goods, or containers of Israeli origin, or literature pertaining to Israel, even though the above items may be normally a part of the vessel's navigation equipment.

Any vessel having such items on board upon arrival in the harbor will be liable to a heavy fine and confiscation of the goods or containers. In addition, the Libyan authorities may refuse to clear the vessel.

The following regulations apply to all vessels entering Libyan territorial waters, and all vessels requesting access to

Libyan ports. Ships bound to any Libyan port must inform their agent in Libya from the vessel's port of departure of the following:

1. Name of vessel.
2. Nationality of vessel.
3. Call sign.
4. Name and address of owner.
5. Name and nationality of master.
6. Number of crew and passengers.
7. Gross tonnage and type of cargo.
8. Destination port and intended duration of stay.
9. ETA.

Twenty-four hours prior to arriving at the Approach Reporting Point, contact the nearest coastal station to confirm the above information and include position, speed, course being steered, Approach Reporting Point to be used, sea state, and ship's condition (trim, list, draft).

All vessels bound for Libyan ports must pass through one of the following designated Approach Reporting Points. On arrival at an Approach Reporting Point, vessels must report their position, course, and speed to the appropriate port authority.

Destination	Approach Reporting Point
Marsa Tubruq	32°10'N, 24°02'E.
Damah (Derna)	32°58'N, 22°42'E.
Banghazi (Bengasi)	32°20'N, 20°06'E. 32°17'N, 19°53'E. 32°09'N, 19°49'E.
Az Zuwaytinah Oil Terminal	32°43'N, 19°06'E.
Marsa al Burayqah Oil Terminal	32°43'N, 19°06'E.
Ras Lanuf Oil Terminal	32°43'N, 19°06'E.
Qasr Ahmed	32°34'N, 15°16'E.

Destination	Approach Reporting Point
Tarabulus (Tripoli)	33°05'N, 13°19'E. 33°07'N, 13°10'E. 33°05'N, 13°04'E. 33°00'N, 12°58'E.
Zuwarah	33°03'N, 12°15'E.

All vessels arriving, departing, or on passage between Libyan ports within Libyan territorial waters must make regular contact every 4 hours with a Libyan coast radio station on VHF channel 16 or a port radio station on VHF channel 11 or 16. Vessels must maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF channel 16.

All ships must abide by the designated anchorages and prohibited areas and adjust their course to pass an Approach Reporting Point.

All ships must ensure that they have on board all certificates and documents required including the safe minimum manning certificate when entering any Libyan port or passing through Libyan waters.

Ships that violate these regulations may be subject to punitive penalties. See Pub. 132, Sailing Directions (Enroute) Eastern Mediterranean, and the appropriate chart for details on approved anchorages.

### Submarine Operating Areas

A submarine exercise area exists seaward of the coast between Zuara and Tarabulus, 55 miles E.

### Time Zone

The Time Zone description is ALPHA (-1).

### U.S. Embassy

All embassy activities were suspended and all personnel were withdrawn from the U.S. Embassy at Tripoli in May, 1980.